

**What is claimed is**

1. A composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch, which comprises a nanoclay composed of a swellable inorganic layered material which has been modified by a pre-exfoliating additive or by an additive mixture.
2. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the average particle size of the nanoclay present is from 0.1 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably from 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , particularly preferably from 1 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , and very particularly preferably from 2 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the nanoclay present encompasses ground nanoclay.
4. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the inorganic layered material has been selected from naturally occurring or synthetic phyllosilicates.
5. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the additive or the additive mixture has been selected from the group of the saturated or unsaturated fatty acids and their salts, the fatty acid derivatives, the polymer fatty acids, the siloxane derivatives, or their mixtures.
6. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the fatty acid or fatty acid derivatives

have been selected from fatty acids having from 10 to 30 carbon atoms.

- 5        7.    The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the fatty acid derivatives have been selected from hydrogenated derivatives, alcohol derivatives, amine derivatives, or their mixtures.
- 10       8.    The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the unsaturated fatty acids encompass the mono- or polyunsaturated hydroxy
- 15       fatty acids.
- 20       9.    The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the fatty acid derivatives have been selected from the group of the polymeric fatty acids, of the keto fatty acids, of the fatty acid alkyloxazolines and fatty acid alkylbisoxazolines, or their mixtures.
- 25       10.   The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the siloxane derivatives have been selected from the group consisting of oligoalkylsiloxanes, polydialkylsiloxanes, polyalkylaryl-
- 30       siloxanes, polydiarylsiloxanes, or their mixtures.
- 35       11.   The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 10, characterized by siloxane derivatives functionalized by at least one reactive group.
12.    The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the additive or the additive

mixture has been selected from the group of the ethylene-propylene terpolymers (EPM), the ethylene-propylene copolymers (EPDM), the thermoplastic elastomers, the coupling agents, the crosslinking agents, or their mixtures.

13. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 12, characterized by an average molecular weight of EPM and/or EPDM of less than 20 000.
14. The composition, in particular a pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in claim 12 or 13, characterized by an ethylene:propylene ratio of from 40:60 to 60:40 in EPM and/or EPDM.
15. The composition, in particular a pulverulent or granular masterbatch in the form of a substantially homogeneous mixture of the pre-exfoliated nanoclay as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 with a polymer powder.
16. The composition, in particular a polymer masterbatch, which has been obtained via compounding of the pulverulent masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 with a predetermined carrier polymer.
17. The composition as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the predetermined carrier polymer has been selected from polyethylene-ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer (EVA), ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymer (EEA), ethylene-methyl acrylate copolymer (EMA), ethylene-butyl acrylate copolymer (EBA), their maleic-anhydride-(MAH)-modified derivatives, ionomers, styrene-elastomer systems, ether-ester block copolymers, polyether-polyamide block copolymers (PEBA), mixtures of thermoplastic polymers, thermoplastic polyurethane

elastomers, thermoplastic silicone rubber, or from their mixtures.

- 5 18. The composition as claimed in claim 16 or 17, characterized by a proportion of the carrier polymer of from 10 to 90%, preferably from 40 to 70%.
- 10 19. The composition as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18 in pellet form.
- 15 20. The use of the composition, in particular of the powder masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 or of the polymer masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 16 to 19 as filler in polymers or polymer compositions.
- 20 21. The use of the composition, in particular of the powder masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 or of the polymer masterbatch as claimed in any of claims 16 to 19 in filler systems for polymers or polymer compositions.
- 25 22. The use as claimed in claim 21 in combination with a flame-retardant filler.
23. The use as claimed in claim 22, characterized by a halogen-free filler.
- 30 24. The use as claimed in claim 23, characterized in that the halogen-free flame-retardant filler has been selected from aluminum hydroxide, aluminum oxide hydrate (boehmite), magnesium hydroxide, magnesium oxide, brucite, magnesium carbonate, hydromagnesite, huntite, bauxite, calcium carbonate, talc, glass powder, melamine isocyanurates, their derivatives and preparations, borates, stannates, and hydroxystannates, phosphates, or their mixtures.
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25. The use as claimed in claim 20 as filler in polyolefins and their mixtures, in engineering plastics and their mixtures, and also alloys.

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25. The use as claimed in claim 20 or 21 for elastomers and thermosets.

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26. The use as claimed in any of claims 20 to 25, characterized by a pre-exfoliated nanoclay content of from 0.1 to 50% by weight, preferably from 0.1 to 15% by weight, in the finished polymer or in the polymer composition.